

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's attention is drawn to the attached Form PTO-1449 listing all of the references cited in the International Search Report. The Notification of Acceptance dated 03/04/97 already acknowledges that copies of such references have been supplied to the Examiner. Presumably, these references have also been considered since the Examiner relies upon one of them (Jonsson) even though it is not included yet in the Notice of Cited References Form PTO-892 or the like.

Accordingly, for the Examiner's convenience, the attached Form PTO-1449 lists all the references now of record in this application and the Examiner is respectfully requested to initial each such reference having been duly considered and to return a copy of such fully initialed PTO-1449 form to the undersigned. Under these circumstances, it is not believed that any additional IDS fee is required for this stage of prosecution. However, if such fee is required, authority is hereby given to charge that fee to our Account No. 14-1140.

The Examiner's attention is also drawn to the attached separate letter to the Chief Draftsperson requesting minor drawing changes as shown in red on the attached photocopies. Subject to the Examiner's approval and a Notice of Allowance, suitably corrected formal drawings will be filed.

As required, a new ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE on a separate page is attached for use in lieu of the originally filed PCT Abstract.

In response to the rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, claims 1 and 8 have been amended so as to obviate the Examiner's formal grounds of objection.

Accordingly, all outstanding formal grounds of objection/rejection are now believed to have been overcome.

There being no other ground of objection or rejection for claims 2-9, it is presumed that these claims are now in provisionally allowed status and no further comment will be made with respect to any of them.

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 based on Jonsson (WO 93/16543) is respectfully traversed.

Among other things, claim 1 requires a plurality of software agents, individual ones of that plurality including data relevant to service provision via the network and updating means for updating data held by at least some of these plural software agents. As described on pages 6-7 of the specification, each agent is an object-oriented packet of software and data which

communicates with other independent agents having similar internal architecture via standard formatted messages.

Regardless of what label or name might be applied to such entities, where is there any teaching or suggestion in Jonsson that there should be a plurality of entities, individual ones of which include data relevant to service provision via the network and wherein the system further includes an updating means for updating data held by at least some of such entities (i.e., an object-oriented system architecture)?

It is respectfully submitted that there is no such teaching or suggestion in the Jonsson reference and therefore that claim 1 cannot possibly be anticipated.

Attention is also directed to new claims 10-25 which have been drafted in an attempt to provide the applicant with an appropriate scope of protection in view of the cited prior art. As will be noted, these claims also all require an object-oriented system architecture which is not found in Jonsson.

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable form and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

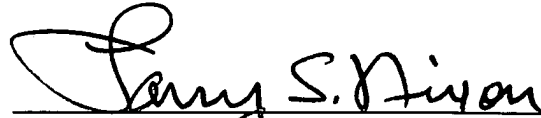
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Serial No. 08/732,321

Respectfully submitted,

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